



VETERANS & DEFENSE AFFAIRS

Secretary Carlos Hopkins

The Secretary of Veterans And Defense Affairs distinguishes and elevates issues and opportunities for our veterans in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Leads the Governor's initiatives focused on relationship building with and support of our military and defense installations and the communities surrounding them.

Agency Expertise

The Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs serves the Commonwealth in four critical ways:

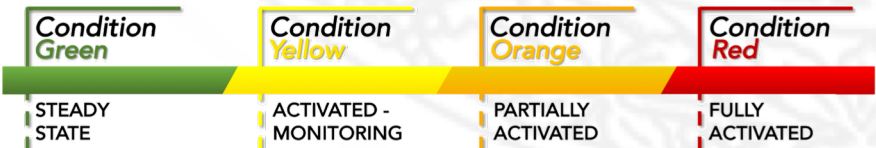
1. It oversees the Virginia Department of Veteran Services
2. The Secretariat serves as the primary liaison for the Commonwealth to the United States Department of Defense and its military communities
3. The Secretary oversees the Virginia Department of Military Affairs
4. The Secretariat oversees the Veteran Service Foundation

Virginia Emergency Support Team

The Virginia Emergency Support Team (VEST) is the Commonwealth's coordination and support mechanism to help localities prepare for, respond to, and recover from notice and no-notice events. The VEST may be activated when the Governor declares a State of Emergency; when the impacts of an event exceed the capacity of local and regional partners; and at the direction of the VDEM State Coordinator or VEST Director in support of a high-profile emergency or non-emergency event that demonstrates a need for state-level resources.

VEST Activation Levels

The VEST uses a color-code system for denoting the levels of activation, ranging from Green/Steady State (typical for non-emergency periods) to Red/Fully Activated (during a major emergency or planned event requiring the engagement of many or all ESFs).



VEST Liaison Officers – EMCs – Public Information Officers

- Each Executive Branch Agency and public institution of higher education appoints:
- Primary and alternate VEST Liaison Officers (VLOs) to serve as the main point of contact for all disaster preparedness, response and recovery matters. VLOs shall have subject matter expertise to staff ESFs, dedicate resources, or fulfill other assignments upon VEST activation.
 - Primary and alternate Emergency Management Coordinators (EMCs); under the EMC, each agency or public institution of higher education shall develop and maintain plans that outline the actions to be taken by facility occupants during emergency situations, severe weather scenarios, and related preparedness drills.
 - Primary and alternate Public Information Officers (PIOs) are responsible for interfacing with the public, media, other agencies and stakeholders to provide incident-related information and updates on the status of an incident or event.

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Department of Veterans Services



Department of Military Affairs

Emergency Support Functions

Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) group governmental and certain private sector capabilities into an organizational structure to provide support, resources, program implementation and services that are most likely needed to save lives, protect property and the environment, restore essential services and critical infrastructure, and help victims and communities return to normal following incidents.

Each ESF has a Lead Agency and Supporting Agencies that collaborate to execute their responsibilities. The Secretariat of Veterans and Defense Affairs Lead and Supporting agencies are indicated in **bold face**.

1 Transportation

Integrates the responsibilities of state agencies for the prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery, infrastructure restoration, safety, and security of all Commonwealth transportation infrastructures.

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Supporting</u>
Virginia Dept. of Transportation	Department of Military Affairs

2 Communications

Assists state agencies, local governments, private-sector entities, and voluntary organizations requiring communications and information technology (IT) related equipment and services in preparation for or in response to emergencies and disasters.

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Supporting</u>
Virginia Information Technologies Agency	Department of Military Affairs

3 Public Works & Engineering

Coordinates and organizes the delivery of essential public works and engineering services using the capabilities and resources of the Commonwealth.

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Supporting</u>
Virginia Department of Health	
Department of General Services	

4 Firefighting

Monitors and supports firefighting activities, including the detection and suppression of fires on all private, state, and federal lands and provides resource support as needed.

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Supporting</u>
Department of Fire Programs	Department of Military Affairs
Virginia Department of Forestry	

5 Emergency Management

The VEST Command and General Staff make up ESF 5. The Command and General Staff includes the State Coordinator, VEST Director, VEST Team Lead, Health and Safety Officer, Access and Functional Needs Chief, PIO and Private Sector. ESF 5 coordinates and supports the overall activities of state government as related to emergency management.

6 Mass Care

Coordinates delivery of state services; implementation of the Commonwealth’s mass care, sheltering and related plans; and coordination of support to local government and non-governmental organization mass care and emergency assistance operations.

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Supporting</u>
Virginia Dept. of Social Services	Department of Military Affairs

7 Logistics

Manage and provide resources, including disaster procurement, warehousing and distribution in support of emergency response and recovery operations.

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Supporting</u>
Virginia Dept. of Emergency Management	

8 Public Health & Medical Services

Coordinates state-level operations and coordinates state support of local government and non-governmental operations.

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Supporting</u>
Virginia Department of Health	Department of Military Affairs

9 Search and Rescue

Deploys components of the SAR Response System to provide specialized life-saving assistance to local jurisdictions during any type of incident.

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Supporting</u>
Virginia Dept. of Emergency Management.	Department of Military Affairs

10 Oil & Hazardous Materials Response

Coordinates and directs state support in response to an actual or potential discharge and/or uncontrolled release of oil or hazardous materials.

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Supporting</u>
Virginia Dept. of Emergency Management	
Department of Environmental Quality	

11 Agriculture & Natural Resources

Coordinates state-level operations and coordinates state support of local government and non-governmental operations.

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Supporting</u>
Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services	

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12 Energy

Coordinates the restoration of damaged or destroyed energy systems and components during an emergency incident.

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Supporting</u>
Virginia Dept. of Emergency Management	

13 Public Safety & Security

Integrates state-level public safety and security capabilities and resources to support response activities associated with potential or actual incidents.

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Supporting</u>
Virginia State Police	Department of Military Affairs

14 Private Sector

This is a newly designated ESF. Coordinates role of business community stakeholders and private sector partners in support of Commonwealth’s response and recovery operations.

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Supporting</u>
Virginia Dept. of Emergency Management	

15 Joint Information Center (JIC)

Provides accurate, coordinated, and timely information to private sector, general public and government agencies during a potential or actual incident.

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Supporting</u>
Virginia Dept. of Emergency Management.	All Agencies

16 Military Affairs

Integrates all supporting Department of Defense (DOD) and Department of Military Affairs resources into the Commonwealth’s coordinated response.

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Supporting</u>
Department of Military Affairs	

17 Volunteer & Donations Management

Coordinates and integrates the delivery of donated goods and volunteer services from non-profit organizations and individuals in support of disaster relief.

<u>Lead</u>	<u>Supporting</u>
Virginia Dept. of Emergency Management	



DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

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The Department of Military Affairs is assigned the duties listed below for the following ESFs:

ESF 1 Transportation

- Assist in debris reduction if resources are available.
- Provide military transportation in accordance with ESF 16 of the COVEOP and other supporting ESFs and support plans.

ESF 2 Communication

- Provide Tactical Communications Packages, Mobile Command Post, and Joint Incident Site Communication Capability (Mobile) to support communications for statewide coordination of emergency/disaster operations.

ESF 4 Firefighting

- Coordinate state military forces and resources employed in emergency fire suppression operations under the direction of VDOF.
- Provide military support of back-up communications, area security and traffic control, heavy equipment, such as bulldozers and water supply, aerial reconnaissance, aerial cargo delivery, and water buckets.
- In selected Virginia National Guard units, provide personnel for firefighting hand crews, dozer crews or chain saw crews and crew leaders with emergency onsite training in basic fire control, chain saw use and safety as necessary to support a response mission.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

Emergency Support Functions (cont.)

SF 6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Human Services, and Housing Referral

- Coordinate agency responsibilities assigned in the COV SCR Shelter Plan.
- Ensure all agency activities comply with state and federal non-discrimination laws.

ESF 8 Public Health and Medical

- Provide logistical support to public health/medical response including medical personnel for casualty clearing/staging and other missions as needed like aeromedical evacuation and medical treatment.
- Provide emergency decontamination capabilities.
- Provide chemical and radiological detection, identification, and monitoring capabilities.
- Provide security for state shelters as available.

ESF 9 Search and Rescue

- Support requests for SAR assets within their capabilities and within the parameters of other operational commitments, existing agreements, protocols, and statutes as required.

ESF 13 Public Safety and Security

- Provide physical security/critical infrastructure protection to including building security and sensitive site protection.
- Provide civil disturbance response to include show of force and riot control agents.
- Provide security and protection for dignitaries and work crews.
- Provide traffic direction and control.
- Provide escort emergency equipment, support joint patrols and ride-alongs, and transport law enforcement.
- Provide area security and patrols.
- Provide security at custody facilities.
- Provide reserve quick reaction force.

ESF 15 External Affairs

- Coordinate emergency-related public information with the Joint Information Center using the Joint Information System.
- Provide staff to the Joint Information Center when requested.
- Public Information Officers will distribute any disaster-related information to their partners, the public, and external audience when received.

ESF 16 Military Affairs – Lead

- Serves as the DMA mission command element in all matters concerning Homeland Defense and National Guard Civil Support.
- Gathers and compiles damage assessment information regarding JFHQ and VA National Guard facilities and assets and provides to ESF 16.
- Works with ESF 7 to identify military support mission assignments that may be needed within the Commonwealth and maintains information regarding JFHQ resource and capabilities available for deployment.